

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 INR-10 L-03 SS-15 SP-02

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PA-01

USIE-00 IO-13 /064 W

-----088031 021306Z /41

O 021211Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5945

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0694

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJ: GOU TO SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF ABA VISIT

ALSO FOR ARA/ECA AMB. PEZZULLO

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 0680 (B) MONTEVIDEO 0652

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL (A), VERY RELIABLE SOURCE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT ARMED FORCES POLITICAL COMMISSION DECIDED AFTERNOON MARCH 1 THAT ABA/BUTLER-REQUE VISIT SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER MARCH 26. AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS WILL REPORTEDLY BE INSTRUCTED TO CONTACT BUTLER TO SEEK DELAY, PRESUMABLY ON GROUNDS THAT GOU CANNOT ACCOMMODATE VISITORS UNTIL AFTER MARCH 20-24 TOURISM WEEK (SECULAR URUGUAY'S SUBSTITUTE FOR HOLY WEEK).

2. COMMENT: WE DO NOT VIEW THIS AS A BACKING AWAY FROM FORTHCOMING APPROVAL OF ABA VISIT REQUEST CONTAINED IN MENDEZ LETTER TO DE WIND TRANSMITTED REFTEL (A). TOURISM WEEK WHICH CULMINATES THREE MONTHS SUMMER VACATION PERIOD WILL GENUINELY PARALYZE OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES IN THIS HOLIDAY-HAPPY COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH ABA VISIT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE MARCH 20 THIS WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE SOME OVERLAP WITH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES VISIT AND GOU MAY FEEL IT CANNOT COPE WITH
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A HUMAN RIGHTS TWIN BILL. ANOTHER FACTOR COULD BE DESIRE TO BUY TIME FOR FURTHER MOVEMENT ON CASES OF FOUR URUGUAYAN LAWYERS WHO ARE FOCUS OF ABA VISIT. AS REPORTED REFTEL (B), SCHURMAN AND FRAGA HAVE BEEN RELEASED, ALBEIT CONDITIONALLY AND PROCESSING OF OTHER TWO CASES COULD BE EXPEDITED. THUS, ALTHOUGH FAR FROM CERTAIN, GOU COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DELAY TO PUT ITS HOUSE IN BETTER ORDER

BEFORE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS GUESTS ARRIVE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT
TIGHT SCHEDULING OF BUTLER AND REQUE WILL PRESENT SERIOUS
PROBLEM, BUT WE HOPE SOME ACCOMMODATION ON TIMING CAN BE
REACHED BETWEEN ABA AND GOU.
CHEEK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, LOBBYING, VISITS, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MONTEV00694
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780095-0871
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803115/aaaadtls.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5da3dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MONTEVIDEO 680, 78 MONTEVIDEO 652
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3142039
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOU TO SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF ABA VISIT ALSO FOR ARA/ECA AMB. PEZZULLO
TAGS: SHUM, UY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5da3dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014